

INCOMING TELEGRAM

Department of State

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Action

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FROM: PARIS

TO: Secretary of State

NO: POLTO 1415, NOVEMBER 24, NOON-

Downgraded To: SECRET

LEO 11652: XGDS 2 2 4

Authorized By: H. D. [illegible]

August 4, 1975

NIACT

SENT DEPARTMENT POLTO 1415 REPEATED INFORMATION BONN POLTO 248
BERLIN POLTO 18 LONDON POLTO 406 MOSCOW POLTO 69

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LIMIT DISTRIBUTION.

USRO SUBMITS FOLLOWING COMMENTS RE BERLIN FROM NATO
POINT OF VIEW.

1) WE HAVE SEEN NORSTAD'S MESSAGE TO JCS EC-9-6265
WHICH WE THINK IS VERY GOOD ESTIMATE OF MILITARILY DESIRABLE
COURSE OF CONDUCT. BUT, AS NORSTAD NOTES, IT IS INDISPEN-
SABLE THAT WE BRING OUR ALLIES ALONG WITH US IN ANY SUCH
OPERATION.

2) SEEMS TO US KEY PROBLEM IS THAT OF NOT ONLY GOVERNMENTAL
BUT PUBLIC OPINION OF OUR ALLIES. IT IS OUR ESTIMATE THAT
BROADLY SPEAKING OPINION IN NATO COUNTRIES IS NOT PREPARED
AT THIS TIME TO RISK HOSTILITIES POSSIBLY LEADING TO
MAJOR WAR OVER PRESENT ISSUE.

3) OUR GENERAL VIEW IS THAT OUR ALLIES WILL NOT BE PREPARED
TO BACK US FULLY FOR A COURSE OF CONDUCT WHICH WILL NOT
MAKE IT CLEAR TO PUBLIC OPINION THAT AT EACH STEP ALONG
THE WAY ALL REASONABLE MEANS SHORT OF FORCE HAVE BEEN
EXHAUSTED BY WEST AND THAT ONUS OF TAKING HOSTILE ACTION
INESCAPABLY PINNED ON COMMUNISTS NOT ONLY LEGALLY,
BUT ALSO IN WAY CONVINCING TO MAN IN STREET.

PERMANENT

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4) I RECOGNIZE THAT IN THIS QUESTION WE CONSTANTLY FACE DILEMMA BETWEEN NEED FOR PROMPT ACTION AND TIME FOR CONSULTATION, BUT BELIEVE FAILURE TO ALLOW FOR NATO CONSULTATION WILL FACE ALLIES WITH DIFFICULT POLITICAL POSITION AT HOME.

BURGESS

JYH/22

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